

Atty. Dkt. No. 017700-0149

REMARKS

Thus, claims 14 and 16-26 remain for examination.

Claims 14, 16-19, 21 and 23-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. By way of the instant amendment, the negative limitation has been removed from the base claim 14 and applicants' invention has now been recited as positive limitations. It is submitted that the amendments made to claim 14 removes the basis of the Examiner's rejection and that applicants' claims are now in full compliance with the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Claims 14, 16-17, 21, 23 and 25-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as unpatentable over Sato '397. Claims 14, 16-17, 21 and 25-26 further stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as unpatentable over Fujikami. Finally, claims 14, 16-19 and 23-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as anticipated by Sato '131.

In the Examiner's response to applicants' prior arguments, the Examiner asserts that Sato '397 removes a portion of the sheath from the end portion of the configuration disclosed in Figure 5, but the sheath is not removed at all in Figure 4. The Examiner further states that Fujikami removes a portion of the sheath from the superconducting wire in some configurations such as in Figure 10B, but in other configurations, such as Figure 4, Fujikami does not remove the sheath at all. Finally, the Examiner states that Sato '131 removes only a portion of the sheath from the end portions

Claim 14 has been amended to clear define applicants' invention over the prior art. In particular, applicant has specifically recited the first and second superconducting wires with their respective filaments and surrounding sheaths so as to distinguish over the prior art. For example, in reference to the particular teachings of the prior art which do not show the sheath being removed, and while not the exclusive points of distinction, it is noted that, Figure 4 of Sato '397 does not show superimposed or overlapping first and second outer surfaces of the first and second sheaths and does not show the brazen filler material disposed between the overlapping first and second outer surfaces of the first and second sheaths; Sato '131 (Figure 5) does not show the

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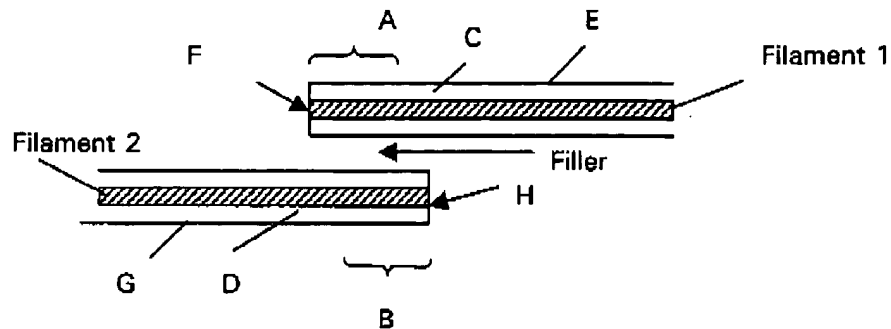
brazen material nor the first/second filament surrounded by and in direct contact with the first/second sheath; and Fujikami '929 (Figure 4) is similar to Saito '397 and does not show superimposed or overlapping first and second outer surfaces of the first and second sheaths and does not show the brazen filler material disposed between the overlapping first and second outer surfaces of the first and second sheaths. As such the structure recited by applicants' amended claim 14 clearly defines applicants' invention over the prior art as is patentable thereover both from the point of view of anticipation and obviousness.

In order to more easily appreciate the structure now recited in applicants' claim 14, reproduced below is amended claim 14 with letter designations shown in parenthesis corresponding to the figure reproduced immediately below the claim.

14. (Currently Amended) An oxide superconducting wire comprising:
- a first oxide superconducting wire having a first end portion (A)
 - a second oxide superconducting wire having a second end portion (B)
 - said first oxide wire comprising at least a first superconducting filament (Filament 1) surrounded by and in direct contact with a first sheath (C) at least in a region of said first end portion;
 - said second oxide wire comprising at least a second superconducting filament (Filament 2) surrounded by and in direct contact with a second sheath (D) at least in a region of said second end portion;
 - said first oxide superconducting wire including a first outer surface (E) defined by an outer surface of said first sheath (C), and a first edge surface (F) defined by an end of said first superconducting filament and an end of said first sheath;
 - said second oxide superconducting wire including a second outer surface (G) defined by an outer surface of said second sheath (D), and a second edge surface (H) defined by an end of said second superconducting filament and an end of said second sheath;
 - said first outer surface forming a junction with said second outer surface by overlapping and connecting said first outer surface to said second outer surface, in a region of said first and second end portions, by a brazing filler metal disposed therebetween; and

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said first edge surface (F) being displaced from said second edge surface (H) longitudinally along the direction of said first and second superconducting wires.



It may thus be easily seen that applicants' invention, as now recited, is patentable over the prior art.

The application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and an early indication of same is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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